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worse by next supplying us a comparative grammar of all these heterogeneous tongues of which he knows nothing. We hope to learn, that, on returning to his proper field of labor in India, he has come to his senses, and returned also to his proper department in literature. As historian of the Hindu people, we shall be glad to meet him again, and the sooner the better; as a comparative philologist, we desire to hear nothing more of him for many years to come, until he has been to school and learned a sounder method.

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5. — *A Modern Historical Atlas, for the Use of Colleges, Schools, and General Readers.* By REV. WILLIAM L. GAGE, Editor and Translator of "Ritter's Palestine," author of the "Life of Carl Ritter," etc., etc. New York: D. Appleton & Company. 1869.

THE Reverend Mr. Gage has attempted a very good thing, but has produced a very poor one. An historical atlas is certainly a desideratum in this community; but we cannot well see that any class of readers will find its wants satisfied by the present collection of maps. The editor himself admits that it is not adapted to the use of historical *students*; and as for general readers, one would think that his aim had been to flatter their vague and inaccurate notions by giving them something equally vague and inaccurate to compare them with. Mr. Gage underrates the historical sense of the American public; a judicious selection from Spruner's maps, omitting, perhaps, some of the details, but preserving the size and general features of the original with precision, would really have met a want and been welcomed. But readers who do not desire any further aid than this atlas will afford them will not be likely to care even for that. If there be any such, they are of the class who read a history because it is "nice," and do not concern themselves much about boundary-lines and strategic points.

One would almost think, indeed, that there had been an effort to avoid even desirable details. It would have been easy, without altering the general plan, and without in the least crowding the maps, to embrace many points which would be very serviceable to the mass of readers. But what shall we think of a map of Central Europe, in the sixteenth century, which does not contain Ghent, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Trèves, Basle, Augsburg, Ratisbon, Munich, or Vienna? or of one of the time of Napoleon which omits Burgos, Badajoz, Talavera, Salamanca, Tilsit, and Elba? Yet these are only specimens of the plan upon which the maps are intentionally prepared.

Details like these are, therefore, out of the scope of the work, which

only aims to give the principal political divisions at the great historical epochs. But, granting that the plan itself is a judicious one, it is a strange judgment upon the relations of historical events which gives four maps for the first five hundred years after the Christian era, and none whatever for the seven hundred years between Charlemagne and the Reformation, except a map of Southeastern Europe for the time of the Crusades. Just the period which is most puzzling to general readers is the one to which Mr. Gage gives them no clew. It was, perhaps, well enough to give a map for the time of Augustus, although this belongs decidedly to *ancient* history; but the only material point in which the map of the time of Constantine differs from that is in the eastern boundary of the Empire; while the next map again (the end of the fourth century) differs only in running the line between the Eastern and Western Empires. Surely it would have been easy, by the use of different colored lines, to let one map serve for all three epochs, — a map which should give the elements out of which modern Europe was formed.

Further, if the aim was to give the chief historical divisions, it is unpardonable not to have these distinctly indicated. But on many maps it is impossible to tell what the meandering red lines mean. In the map of the Empire of Charlemagne, one might, perhaps, see cause to include Italy in the dominions of this monarch, for one corner of the letter E seems to have crossed the Alps; but there is nothing whatever to show that they comprehended Saxony and the Spanish March, any more than England and Asturia. So, too, we defy any one to guess, from the maps alone, what were the dominions of Charles the Fifth. We beg pardon of the reader for this clumsy way of referring to the maps; they are not numbered, and there is no list of them.

The remarks that we have made apply more or less to all the maps; but the most unsatisfactory of all is that of Germany at the time of the Reformation. We confess that we cannot make out the principle upon which it is constructed. We have already noticed its poverty in detail, — it is, no doubt, a mere carelessness in proof-reading that Aix-la-Chapelle is placed to the north of Brussels. But the “political divisions” are a most singular list, and the ingenuous student, who seeks to learn from this source how Germany was subdivided at this important epoch, must find himself left in a very confused state of mind. These names certainly do not represent the political divisions of the sixteenth century, for Swabia and Franconia had for over two hundred years ceased to be duchies. They are not the administrative “circles” of Maximilian, for the Palatinate was no “circle,” nor Thuringia, — which name is inclosed in well-defined lines, although it signified no more then than now, — nor

Bremen, nor Holstein, nor Brandenburg. Moreover, the circles of the Upper and Lower Rhine are not indicated at all; and although Lower Saxony is given, Upper Saxony stands without the adjective. Then the Palatinate is made to include Alsatia, and the Netherlands are divided into "United," and "Spanish," — a division which did not exist until after the revolt from Philip II. Most of the names are judiciously given in their English form, but for Lorraine we have the Latin name Lothringia. We fancy, that, after the analogy of the Indian who was born "at Nantucket, Cape Cod, and all along shore," Mr. Gage has evolved a map of Germany out of his own consciousness, which is intended to do service for a series of centuries at once. It certainly does not represent any one period.

We have not thought it worth while to notice any of the merits of this atlas, for the reason that they result from the nature of things, not from the care of the editor. It would be difficult to make a series of maps, especially maps so clearly and handsomely printed as these, which should be absolutely worthless; but those before us come as near to being so as is perhaps possible. We do not see a single point in which the work of the editor has been well done; and we regret this the more because so elegant and showy a volume will necessarily pre-occupy the market, and prevent the publication of a really good historical atlas, such as our community needs, and ought to have.

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6. — *Studies in Early French Poetry.* By WALTER BESANT, M. A., Christ's College, Cambridge. London and Cambridge: Macmillan and Company. 1868.

THE time is rapidly passing away when a graduate of one of our leading colleges, who had carried off the highest honors in his class, could ask with surprise, "Who were Goethe, and Schiller, and Molière?" The coming schoolboy will know something of many a poet and historian of whom his father never heard; but there are many others of whom he, too, is likely to remain in ignorance, so long as the modern languages are taught in the way in which they are almost universally taught to-day. If we are to feel unmixed satisfaction at the prominence which these studies are assuming in this country, they must lead to something more than the ability to speak French and German with fluency, and a superficial acquaintance with the literature of the last two or three centuries. And we are not without hope that the time may come when the American student who enjoys Heine and Uhland may read with scarcely less relish the *Meistersänger* and the *Minne-*